

**DRAFT
MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
APRIL 9, 2008
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

**PATTY GILBERTSON
CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Batten, *Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services*
Joe Battle, *Consumer/Advocate*
W. Curtis Coleburn, *Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control*
Patty Gilbertson, *Virginia Drug Court Association*
John Gibney, *Consumer/Advocate*
Catherine Hancock, *Department of Medical Assistance Services*
Mark R. Herring, *State Senator*
Janice Hicks, *Department of Health*
Jennifer Johnson, *Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors*
Sandy Kanehl, *Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs*
Marty Kilgore, *Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation*
James May, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board*
David Mosley, *Department of Motor Vehicles*
Rudi Schuster, *Department of Criminal Justice Services*
Freddie Simons, *Virginia Community Services Board- Prevention Council*
Charles Walsh, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Board -Treatment*

GUESTS:

Mark Blackwell, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance*
Jamie MacDonald, *Virginia Community Services Board- Prevention Council*
Barbara Battle, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DMHMRSAS*
Marc Goldberg, *DMHMRSAS*
Mellie Randall, *DMHMRSAS*
Julie Truitt, *DMHMRSAS*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order by the Chair and opened with introductions by those in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business for discussion or additions to the agenda.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 30, 2007 MINUTES:

The minutes were e-mailed to members for review prior to the meeting. Sandy Kanehl requested the name of her organization be corrected to read "Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs."

A motion was made by Freddie Simons and seconded by Rudi Schuster to approve the minutes with the requested correction. The motion was carried and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. DISCUSSION OF 2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION:** Ken Batten provided a brief overview and status of the 2008 General Assembly bills related to issues concerning substance use.

Of significance this year was an amendment (HB1203 and SB 381) to §37.2-416 and §37.2-506 related to crimes that are barriers to employment that allows community services boards and providers licensed by DMHMRSAS to hire as a direct care employee in adult substance abuse or mental health treatment programs a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor violation of assault and battery related to substance use or mental illness in which the applicant has been rehabilitated.

There were two alcohol beverage bills, HB 1416 and HB696, which asked that the ABC Board deduct, quarterly, five percent from its net profits to be paid into a Substance Abuse Treatment fund. Both bills were left in subcommittee. Council members discussed why the bills were not successfully passed through subcommittee. In an effort to obtain momentum for this initiative, Mark Blackwell stated that SAARA has formed a workgroup to review other state's, (Pennsylvania and Maryland), introduction of successful legislation. Will Williams, who is part of the workgroup, discussed the scope of the workgroup.

Mr. Simons inquired about the projected revenue that would result from passage of HB 1416 and HB 696. Mr. Batten stated that in the amended version, with an increase in only the excise tax on alcohol, it is estimated that the profit would be \$94 million per year. The tax was projected to have increased from 2 cents to 6 cents.

Mr. Batten identified two additional bills of interest to the Council:

- HB 1354 was designed to streamline the grant application process for federal funding applications. The bill passed and beginning July 1, 2008 DMHMRSAS will only require that grant summaries be submitted for review simultaneously with the application for funding to the federal source. Complete applications are required only if the application is funded.

- SB 429 (DMHMRSAS), which requires licensed providers of opiate addiction to pay a dosing fee to DMHMRSAS, was introduced to provide funds to support the infrastructure and the administration of methadone programs by DMHMRSAS. The bill was continued to 2009 in the Health, Welfare and Institutions committee. DMHMRSAS staff will be meeting with Delegate O'Bannon, the chair of the subcommittee, to discuss this legislation and the intent of the bill.
- SJ77 introduced by Senator Hanger creates a joint subcommittee to conduct a one year study on the strategies and models for substance abuse prevention and treatment that effectively reduce the costly service demands created by substance use.

Mr. Batten suggested that the Council send a letter to Senator Hanger requesting to have member(s) of the Council to attend the meetings. Additionally, the Chair suggested that the letter include the scope of work the Council has completed in regards to substance use, prevention, and treatment.

Senator Herring also suggested that a member(s) from the Council attend upcoming subcommittee meetings in an effort to inform and promote advocacy related to substance use. Also, the Council should ensure that Senator Hanger is aware of specific concerns that have been identified relative to prevention and treatment in Virginia.

The Council will extend an invitation to Senator Hanger to attend the SASC July meeting to be held in Charlottesville. Senator Herring suggested that Senator Hanger be applauded for the introduction of SJ77, request his attendance at a SASC meeting to speak about his intent for SJ 77, and indicate the Council's willingness to support and participate in the process as needed.

Senator Herring suggested that for next year's session it would be helpful if the Council would identify those General Assembly members who are supportive of the Council's issues, stay in close contact with those members, and provide the legislators with any needed support or information.

- Mr. Batten also provided a legislative update in regards to drug courts. The legislation introduced to eliminate funding for drug courts was defeated. The Chair thanked the Council members for supporting the funding of drug courts at the current level.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Simons expressed appreciation for Mr. Batten's strategic response to concerns regarding the elimination of Virginia's eligibility to access funds through the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant that had provided funding for HIV programs and services. Additionally, Dr. May acknowledged Mr. Batten's efforts to continue to provide funding for the needed services for the HIV population.
- Mark Blackwell provided comments and concerns generated by the December 10, 2007 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report briefing associated with the 2007 legislation- HJR 683 and SJR 395. Mr. Blackwell indicated that several participants in JLARC's initial survey perceived the focus of the preliminary report to be inclusive of data from other states as opposed to data provided by relevant entities in Virginia. Mr. Blackwell and Dr. May, on behalf of the Consortium of Substance Addiction Organizations (CSAO), met with JLARC staff to express concerns. After meeting with CSAO representatives, JLARC staff indicated that the report will represent the cost of substance use to the Commonwealth, exclusive of societal costs. A disclaimer will be included in the report to this effect. Mr. Blackwell stated that he left the meeting with a higher level of confidence in the product that the Commission will be producing. The final report will be shared with the General Assembly in June 2008 for a release in July 2008.
- Rudy Schuster noted that, similar to many agencies receiving federal grant support (referred to as special funds in the General Assembly) agencies associated with the criminal justice system have experienced a 40-50 percent reduction in funding during the last three years and approximately a 50-60 percent reduction over the last five years.

Mr. Schuster indicated that many community services boards throughout Virginia are providing services for clients from the criminal justice system. He commended those CSBs for offering services that would not otherwise be available.

- The Chair informed the members that as a result of budgetary restraints, DMHMRSAS will no longer be able to provide lunch for Council meetings.
- **MEDICAID IMPLEMENTATION:** Dr. May expressed his appreciation to SAARA and Community Champions that came forward supporting legislation a year ago to have addiction treatment included in the Medicaid plan for the state. He believes that the cost of implementing the program is exceeding the funding because the rates are exceptionally low. Other

members voiced their concerns regarding eligibility, reimbursement, billing, etc. Mr. Batten stated that DMHMRSAS will be working with the community services boards to identify barriers and provide technical assistance in an effort to address issues associated with implementation.

- The Chair identified an emerging issue related to the growing Hispanic population in the Hampton Roads area. Ms. Gilbertson has been appointed to sit on a Hispanic advisory committee. Providers working in Hispanic communities have identified several specific issues that include language barriers, specifically the numerous dialects, and needs related to intoxication and substance use. The Chair requested that staff evaluate this issue and provide information to the Council at a future meeting.
- Mr. Batten announced that Virginia has been selected as the site for the 2010 National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in June of 2010 in Norfolk. The hosting state is allowed to organize an event and the Council is invited to present suggestions. Mr. Batten also thanked the DMHMRSAS staff for developing the proposal to bring the meeting to Virginia. There is also a conference on blending research with practice sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse that occurs on the last day of the NASADAD meeting.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

“OLDER ADULTS: ISSUES OF AGING, ALCOHOL AND MEDICATION”

PRESENTERS: Margaret Ann Lane, M. Ed., NCC – DMHMRSAS
Patricia W. Slattum, Pharm. D., Ph.D. – VCU
Wayde Glover – DMHMRSAS
Regina Whitsett - ABC

- A presentation was given on the issue of older adults and the issue of alcohol and medication abuse. Ms. Lane provided the group with the issue of older adults, the substances they are abusing and the interaction between alcohol and all other drugs.
 - Older Adults have specific issues/stressors related to aging and the use of alcohol and drugs
 - Older adults may have a greater concern about the interactions between alcohol and all other drugs (“recreational, prescribed, over-the-counter) because of the cumulative effect on their bodies and minds
 - There are physical, psychological and social impacts such as falls, medical conditions worsen, anxiety/depression, and isolation increases

She also discussed the projected population growth and the implications of substance use on this population.

- Currently there are 35 million persons over 65 or 12% of the U.S. population; by 2030 it is estimated that there will be 71 million persons over 65 or 20% of the U.S. population. This aging population will account for 5 million and 11 million persons with SUDs respectively
- What has been described as an Invisible Epidemic will have an implication on policy, providers of services to older adults, and older adults being served as consumers.

Dr. Slattum presented on alcohol and drug interactions in older adults and the scope of the problem. She also discussed why older adults are at increased risk and provided some recommendations on how to address this issue.

- 60% of older adults referred for prescription drug abuse showed evidence of alcohol use
- 77% of older adult prescription drugs users were exposed to alcohol-interacting drugs
- Older adults are at increase risk because of physiologic changes, multiple use of medication, uncoordinated care, and adverse events mistaken for normal aging
- Recommendations
 - Support educational initiative to raise awareness among older adults, their support systems, and health care professionals of the risks of alcohol use among older adults, particularly when mixed with prescription drugs;
 - Support research on the barriers to prevention and intervention among older adults and identify the service gaps; and
 - Support funding for a demonstration project to define best practices for supporting decision making among older adults and their care providers concerning alcohol use

Mr. Glover provided information on the growing population of older adults, alcohol use among this population, barriers to treatment and suggested areas on this issue that Council could support.

- The age range for Baby- Boomers is 42-60; in 2006 the oldest baby boomers, born in 1946, turn age 60
- Early onset or chronic alcoholics who abused alcohol throughout their lives comprise about 66% of the older adult alcoholic population
- Late onset or “situational alcoholics” (loneliness, grief, boredom, retirement, self-medication) comprise about 33% of the older adult alcoholic population
- Barriers to treatment include lack of age specific programs, complications with overall health, medication management, co-occurring disorders, not a “sexy issue”
- Recommendations:

- Address the issue of stigma which leads to an unwelcoming attitude toward older adult consumers;
- Support a two-part research to learn about special issues of older adults with substance use disorders and gather more information about any older adult services the CSBs are currently providing;
- Fund a model program to enable one or more boards to develop a pilot program to serve older adults in the community; and address the issues of workforce development and staff training

Ms. Whitsett provided information on HB110 which amended VA Code 2.2-5510 during the 2006 session of the General Assembly. The amendment requires each state agency to include in their strategic plan an “analysis of the impact the aging of the population will have on its ability to deliver services, a description of how agency is responding to these changes...” She also reviewed action steps taken by the VA ABC for 2007-2008. One step was the formation of the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG). She discussed the agencies represented (state agencies, profit and non-profit organizations), the accomplishments (created AAAG Speaker’s Bureau, educational information disseminated, service provider conference), and future goals (train area Agencies on Aging (AAA) staff and Geriatric Physicians, data collection) of the AAAG. Ms. Whitsett requested Council’s support by including the above information and recommendations for providing training, prevention, and treatment services for older adults in the SASC 2008 annual report and plan.

A motion was made by Rudi Schuster to draft a letter of support, from the Council thanking the individuals involved in the presentation and recognizing the work that AAAG has accomplished in bringing this issue to the forefront. The motion was seconded by Ken Batten. The motion was carried.

The Council agreed by consensus to include the emerging issue concerning older adults as part of the 2008 annual report and plan. The Chair also asked Wayne Glover and Margaret Anne Lane to work with the Council staff in developing this chapter of the report including the recommendations presented in their presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE: The next SASC meeting will be scheduled in July. Staff will locate a venue in the Charlottesville area.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Synette J. Bouser

Lynette Bowser